## REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of May 12, 2006 is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 are allowed, but also rejected independent claim 8 in view of the prior art. Consequently, claims 8-15 have now been cancelled, leaving only allowed claims 1-7 pending in this application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Isao SHIMADA et al.

By:\_

W. Douglas Hahm Registration No. 44,142

Attorney for Applicants

WDH/ck Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 July 27, 2006